

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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February 4, 1999 LB 59

SENATOR SMITH: ...E & R amendments to LB 59.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Motion before us is the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 59. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say. The amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Schimek would move to amend with AM0180. (See page 437 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schimek, you are recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. There's been a lot of discussion of this bill off the floor and this amendment was one of the things that we thought we probably could do with the bill. And, if you recall, the purpose of the bill was to put in an element of fairness to particularly small businesses because businesses only have to pay one fee, regardless of how many locations they have throughout the state, so the bigger businesses, like Wal-Mart and McDonald's and some of those places pay the \$25 fee. But what...what we talked about during the discussion of this was do...is it revenue neutral and, in acquiring figures, we decided that it probably isn't exactly revenue neutral. It would mean that we'd probably take in about \$83,000 more at the \$25 level. So we looked at \$40,000 and we looked at \$50,000. At \$40,000 we still take in an additional \$51,000; at \$50,000 we take in \$15,000, so it's just about as revenue neutral as you can get, if you raise the bar to \$50,000, and that's what this amendment is attempting to do or does do. It raises the amount of sales that a business has to make to 50,000, instead of the existing 30,000, and makes the bill more revenue neutral. It also makes...it still has that element of fairness in it and it probably helps those really small businesses the most. Now, whether this is good public policy, there could be some discussion on that, but that is...that is what we decided, some of us, probably needed to be looked at. As we looked at the entire picture of all of these funds that are for waste reduction and recycling and tire litter and all of that kind of thing, we also talked about the possibility of merging the administration of all these different funds so that you could